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XM Radio is an excellent service, funded primarily by the listeners. They recently added local traffic and weather. This has proven to be very important to me. I primarily use XM's weather and traffic reports to get instant updates (within 2 or 3 minutes) on the traffic problems encountered. Using AM or FM radio in my area (LA) requires waiting 6 or 10 minutes to hear a partial report. Neither provide the complete coverage that XM does. Generally speaking, you have to hear 3 or 4 AM/FM reports to get a complete traffic picture, while only one XM report is needed. I also use XM's weather reports when traveling to other cities